



STATE PROFILE 2013



NURSE-FAMILY PARTNERSHIP IN VERMONT

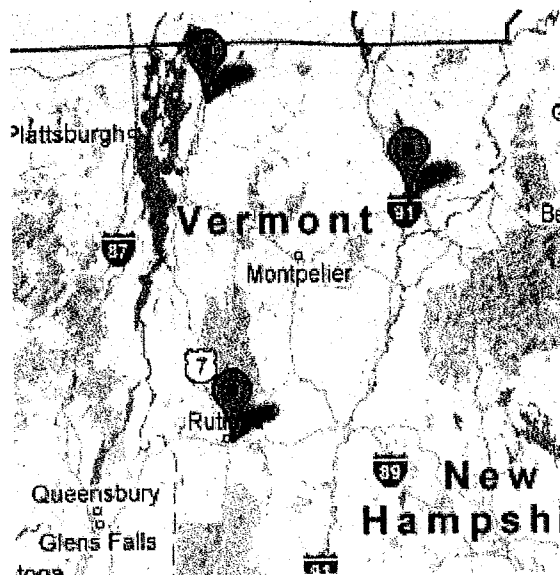
Nurse-Family Partnership® (NFP) is an evidence-based, community health program that helps transform the lives of vulnerable mothers pregnant with their first child. Each mother served by NFP is partnered with a registered nurse early in her pregnancy and receives ongoing nurse home visits that continue through her child's second birthday. Independent research proves that communities benefit from this relationship – every dollar invested in Nurse-Family Partnership can yield more than five dollars in return.

NURSE-FAMILY PARTNERSHIP GOALS

1. Improve pregnancy outcomes by helping women engage in good preventive health practices, including thorough prenatal care from their healthcare providers, improving their diets, and reducing their use of cigarettes, alcohol and illegal substances;
2. Improve child health and development by helping parents provide responsible and competent care; and
3. Improve the economic self-sufficiency of the family by helping parents develop a vision for their own future, plan future pregnancies, continue their education and find work.

THE NEED

The first NFP Implementing Agency in Vermont began serving clients in 2012. Outcomes and demographics of NFP clients will be available in late 2013.



In Vermont, Nurse-Family Partnership serves families in the following seven counties: Bennington, Caledonia, Essex, Franklin, Lamoille, Orleans and Rutland.

IMPLEMENTING AGENCY CONTEXT

The State of Vermont established the Children's Integrated Services (CIS), which is a framework for providing a group of services and support for pregnant or postpartum women and families with children from 0 to 6. These services include Early Intervention; Early Childhood and Family Mental Health, with a primary focus on social-emotional development; home visits through Family Support and Nursing, with a primary focus on prevention, health promotion, physical health and development; and Specialized Child Care. The system utilizes a 'no wrong door' philosophy and a coordinated team approach to facilitate service delivery for families that is seamless, holistic and family centered.

As part of the Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program, Vermont intended to strengthen the CIS by integrating evidence-based nurse home visiting into the menu of services available to families. As such, it decided to embed Nurse-Family Partnership in the home health agency network, some of which also serve as the local CIS provider. The agencies identified to implement NFP include the Caledonia Home Health Care & Hospice, the Franklin County Home Health Agency and the Rutland Area Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice. All three agencies have a long history of providing myriad health-related supports and services, such as skilled nursing, maternal child health, rehabilitation, community wellness and prevention, psychiatric nursing and medical social work, among others.

FUNDING CONTEXT

The Vermont Department of Health functions as the lead agency for the MIECHV program and designated Nurse-Family Partnership as its evidence-based home visiting model of choice for this federal initiative. The state initially used formula funding to launch three NFP programs in Caledonia, Essex and Orleans counties (known locally as "The Northeast Kingdom"); Franklin and Lamoille counties; and Bennington and Rutland counties. In September 2012, Vermont was awarded a competitive MIECHV grant that will support expansion to Orange, Washington, Windham and Windsor counties—bringing service coverage to 11 of 14 counties. While NFP services are fully funded through the MIECHV program, state officials plan to explore Medicaid funding options to support long-term sustainability efforts.

A RIGOROUSLY TESTED PROGRAM WITH MEASURABLE RESULTS

Societal Benefits

Nurse-Family Partnership is a rare community health program that has been documented to achieve lasting significant effects through multiple, well-designed randomized, controlled trials. More than thirty years of research proves that it works. This evidence shows our clients — low-income, first-time mothers — that if they follow the program and work with their nurse, they can transform their lives and the lives of their children. Moreover, independent policy research makes clear that every public health dollar policymakers and the communities invest in Nurse-Family Partnership could realize more than five dollars in return.

National Recognition

- The Washington State Institute for Public Policy, The RAND Corporation and The Brookings Institution have concluded that investments in Nurse-Family Partnership lead to significant returns to society and government, giving taxpayers a \$2.88-5.70 return per dollar invested in the program.
- The Coalition for Evidence-Based Policy identifies Nurse-Family Partnership as one of only two early childhood programs that meet its "Top Tier" evidence of effectiveness.
- The Partnership for America's Economic Success finds investments in early childhood programs, such as Nurse-Family Partnership, to be stronger investments than state business subsidies when viewed from a long-term, national perspective.
- The Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence reviewed over 650 programs with published research in peer-reviewed literature. Nurse-Family Partnership was found to be one of 11 (or 6%) of the programs, that clearly work or even appear promising. The Center fully supports and endorses NFP as one of its "Blueprints" programs.

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